

**Bonneville Power Administration
Fish and Wildlife Program FY98 Watershed Proposal Form**

Section 1. General administrative information

Title **Landowner Communication Program**

Bonneville project number, if an ongoing project 8050

Business name of agency, institution or organization requesting funding
Roza-Sunnyside Board of Joint Control

Business acronym (if appropriate) RSBOJC

Proposal contact person or principal investigator:

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Subcontractors.

Organization	Mailing Address	City, ST Zip	Contact Name
Washington State University Extension Center	24106 N Bunn Rd	Prosser, WA 99350	Robert G. Stevens

NPPC Program Measure Number(s) which this project addresses.

NMFS Biological Opinion Number(s) which this project addresses.

Other planning document references.

Subbasin.

Lower Yakima River

Short description.

Provide water quality and conservation information to landowners through an expanded newsletter, news release, and workshop program. Technical assistance will be made available.

Section 2. Key words

Mark	Programmatic Categories	Mark	Activities	Mark	Project Types
X	Anadromous fish		Construction		Watershed
*	Resident fish		O & M		Biodiversity/genetics
*	Wildlife		Production		Population dynamics
	Oceans/estuaries		Research	X	Ecosystems
	Climate		Monitoring/eval.		Flow/survival
	Other		Resource mgmt		Fish disease
		X	Planning/admin.		Supplementation
			Enforcement		Wildlife habitat enhancement/restoration
			Acquisitions		

Other keywords.

Communications, workshops, newsletters, education, water quality, conservation

Section 3. Relationships to other Bonneville projects

Project #	Project title/description	Nature of relationship

Section 4. Objectives, tasks and schedules**Objectives and tasks**

Obj 1,2,3	Objective	Task a,b,c	Task
1	Provide Written Information to Landowners	a	Prepare two newsletters per year.
		b	Prepare at least three news releases per year for the news media..
2	Public Information Workshops	a	Conduct one public information workshop each year.

Objective schedules and costs

Objective #	Start Date mm/yyyy	End Date mm/yyyy	Cost %
1	2/1998	12/1998	24.00%
2	2/1998	4/1999	76.00%
			TOTAL 100.00%

Schedule constraints.

There are no known constraints if funding is made available.

Completion date.

1998

Section 5. Budget

FY99 budget by line item

Item	Note	FY98
Personnel	RSBOJC Staff	\$3,300
Fringe benefits		\$1,700
Supplies, materials, non-expendable property		\$1,000
Operations & maintenance		
Capital acquisitions or improvements (e.g. land, buildings, major equip.)		
PIT tags	# of tags:	
Travel		
Indirect costs	Office overhead	\$ 500
Subcontracts	WSU Consultation	\$2,500
Other		
TOTAL		\$9,000

Outyear costs

Outyear costs	FY99	FY00	FY01	FY02
Total budget				

O&M as % of total				
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Section 6. Abstract

The Roza-Sunnyside Board of Joint Control (RSBOJC) serves many landowners in Yakima and Benton Counties. The current emphasis placed on water quality improvements and conservation are relatively new concepts and will affect farm practices and costs. The RSBOJC proposes to inform its landowners of the changes and opportunities through an expanded communications program. The program will consist of newsletters, press releases, and workshops. Topics such as the impacts of water policies on farm operations and opportunities for financial assistance will be presented. The program will provide a means to inform landowners of progress being made in water quality and conservation.

With adequate funding, the program could be started during the 1998 irrigation season. The RSBOJC is prepared to continue the landowners communication program into the future once it is established.

Section 7. Project description

a. Technical and/or scientific background.

The water quality and conservation issues in the Yakima River Basin have received general publicity but there is a need to communicate project specific information to the members of the RSBOJC. The direct approach of using newsletters, news releases, and workshops is expected to be very effective. Since water quality and conservation issues will have a financial impacts on farm operations, the information provided by this program will be of vital interest. By using the communications program as a means to inform landowners of sources of funding assistance, interest will be generated.

b. Proposal objectives.

It is the objective of the landowner communications program to increase the awareness of water quality and conservation issues. The program will provide landowners direct access to information that affects their farming operations and water supply. Early knowledge of regulatory and policy changes will allow the landowners to make appropriate plans and minimize any negative impacts.

c. Rationale and significance to Regional Programs.

The rationale behind the landowner communications program has been used effectively by many others. Although people are usually reluctant to change their current practices, they will do so more willingly if the underlying reasons are known and accepted. It is the intent of this program to make information available to the RSBOJC landowners. This will make the changes that are inevitable more acceptable.

d. Project history

Previous communications with the RSBOJC landowners has been somewhat limited since no significant changes in policies were taking place. That level of public information exchange has been adequate in the past. With the changes that are now occurring and the new opportunities that exist, it is appropriate to expand the communications program.

e. Methods.

Implementation of the landowner communications program will consist of several elements. It is proposed that two newsletters be prepared each year for distribution to all landowners. To supplement the newsletters, information will be released to the news media as events develop during the year. At least three news releases are expected to be needed each year to announce developments that affect the RSBOJC landowners.

The annual landowner workshop is proposed as a method to make current and relevant information available. This workshop will provide landowners access to the people and programs that are available to implement water quality and conservation improvements. The workshop is intended as a mechanism to set the implementation process in motion. The RSBOJC is prepared to provide follow up assistance to the landowners as the projects move ahead.

f. Facilities and equipment.

The planning work needed to conduct the landowner communications program is similar to the type of work regularly performed by the RSBOJC staff. It is not anticipated that it will be necessary to acquire any additional specialized equipment or facilities. The workload to implement the program will require some staff time but is not expected to require addition of a full time position.

g. References.

CH2M HILL, 1975. Agricultural Return Flow Management in the State of Washington. Prepared for Washington State Department of Ecology.

Department of Ecology, 1990. Statewide Water Quality Assessment 350 (B) Report, State of Washington.

USGS, 1976. Sediment Transport by Irrigation Return Flows in the Lower Yakima River Basin, Washington. Open File Report 78-946.

Section 8. Relationships to other projects

The landowner communications program is related to efforts currently underway and proposed to improve the quality of water in the lower reaches of the Yakima River. This program very specifically links to and depends upon the RSBOJC water quality monitoring program. It is also closely tied to the return flow improvement and waterway buffer strip improvement programs.

Section 9. Key personnel

The work will be accomplished with RSBOJC staff and a limited amount of staff from the Washington State University Extension Program. The workload will be absorbed by the current staff supplemented by some outside assistance.

Section 10. Information/technology transfer

The program is expected to serve as a demonstration of the benefits that can be achieved through landowner communications. This concept could be applied to many other irrigation and drainage projects.